non-Socialist parties. In this way the Pre-Parliament, or Council of the Republic, was formed, an organization that might have had a chance to supplement a coalition government . . . if such a govern ment were to be organized.

Unfortunately, negotiations on the formation of a government ended in complete failure. The Cabinet that emerged out of these negotiations became known as the Third Coalition, or the Second Kerensky Government. Actually, it was neither a coalition nor a government. It consisted of men picked individually by Kerensky from business circles and intellectual professions. Some were able men with good reputations in their own fields, others were little known to the public, but together they were not much better than the Directory. I was at the front when the Council of the Republic recognized this Cabinet as the new government in Russia.[12] If I had been in Petrograd perhaps I too would have voted with the majority of the Council, but I recall my feeling of frustration in reading the declaration of the new Cabinet—timid, poorly written, and leaning backward toward reactionary demands.

AGONY IN THE ARMY

The Communists had discovered the Achilles' heel of the All-Russian Executive Committee and army organizations: Since they had not repudiated everyone involved in the Kornilov conspiracy, they could all be branded as Kornilov's gang. There was no defense against this charge. Troubles in the regiments became increasingly grave. Whole divisions announced they would withdraw from the front unless peace were concluded by November 1. This time they meant what they said. The Iskosol was actually a prisoner of the Lettish Tirailleurs. Several battalions had left their positions and installed themselves around the building occupied by the army committee in Venden, declaring that they were there to keep the Iskosol from committing treacherous or counterrevolutionary acts.

My own status with the soldiers remained a trifle better than the officers'. At least I could expect to find a few friends in each regiment. I no longer dealt with divisions and corps, but with single regiments and battalions. So I continued to tour the front. The autumn rains had turned long stretches of road into quagmire. I usually traveled at night so as to reach the trouble spot in the morning. The car crawled in fog. The roads were flanked by pitch-black walls of forests, inter-

[12] As far as I remember, this reluctant recognition was the new Cabinet's only formal title to authority.